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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT REQUESTS RELEASE OF SACT GEN MATTIS

This cable conveys the text of President Obama's July 16 letter to NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer requesting the early release of General James Mattis, United States Marine Corps, as Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation.

Begin text:

Dear Mr. Secretary General:

I am addressing you as Chairman of the Defense Planning Committee of the North Atlantic Council with the request that the appropriate action be taken at an early date to secure the release of General James N. Mattis, United States Marine Corps, from his assignment as Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation. In making this request through you to the member nations who appointed him, I ask that they give favorable consideration to his release.

The full trust and confidence extended by all nations to General Mattis during his tenure as Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation, will, I am certain, continue with the assumption of these responsibilities by another commander.

If the Committee approves the release of General Mattis, I have been advised that the President of France is prepared to nominate to the Committee a well-qualified successor.

Sincerely,  
/s/  
Barack Obama  
CLINTON